

Dear Honored Committee Member,

We would like to express our deepest concerns regarding the proposed new redistricting map for Illinois, specifically IL-03 where we live. As 40-year residents of the near western suburbs less than a twenty-minute drive to the city of Chicago, we can attest to the fact that we are an urban area that is multi-ethnic and identifies strongly with the city of Chicago. Our needs and goals are very different from those of the farmlands and smaller towns west of us (the new areas that are being proposed in our district).

There is simply no way that any of us (those currently living in IL-03 and those who live in the communities that would be brought in) can effectively have our issues addressed in this proposed new configuration. Indeed, such a complete disregard for the needs and concerns of the people threatens to unravel the strong progressive values in this area. This redesign serves neither those of us who have been in IL-03 for a long time or those who would be in the extended area. The areas those of us in current IL-03 most identify with (especially the parts of Chicago that were dropped) have been eliminated and a hodgepodge of citizens with little in common will be forced together into a patchwork that will serve no one should this version of the map go forward.

In recent years, we have seen positive changes in our district, and we would most definitely like to see those positive changes continue. We urge you to keep the Chicagoland portion included in IL-03, maintaining the district's current shape and area in the interests of meeting the needs of all concerned.

Respectfully,

Myrna and Sterling Topol